

**ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.14114.0341US  
APPLICATION NO. 09/613,092****REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 11 are pending in the application. Claims 2-10, and 12-20 have been withdrawn from consideration. The specification has been amended to include a priority claim. It is believed that no new matter is added by this amendment.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Ades et al., WO 99/45121 in view of Tam (*In: Peptide Antigens: A practical Approach* (Ed) Wisdom G.B. IRL Press, Oxford University Press, New York, 1993, p83-90) or Huang et al. (*Mol. Immunol.* 31:1191-1199, 1994). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants point out that the present application now claims benefit of PCT/US99/04326 which was published as WO99/45121. The present application and WO99/45121 have the same effective filing date. Thus, the WO99/45121 publication is not prior art and cannot be combined with other art to render obvious the present invention. Neither Tam nor Huang et al., alone or in combination teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims. Therefore, applicants request withdrawal of the rejection, as the remaining cited references fail to teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

Pursuant to the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending application is believed to be warranted. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to directly contact the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of the application to issue.

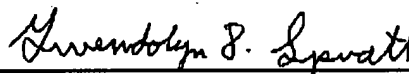
Payment in the amount of \$410.00 for the two month extension of time is to be charged to a credit card and such payment is authorized by the signed, enclosed document entitled.

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Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038. This amount is believed to be correct; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

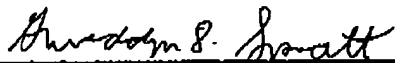


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence, including any items indicated as attached or included, is being transmitted via facsimile transmission to: Examiner J.N. Devi Sarvamangala, Art Unit 1643, (703) 872-9306, on the date indicated below.



Gwendolyn D. Spratt

9-30-03

Date